

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

HERNDON, Chief Judge:

Petitioner, an inmate in the Shawnee Correctional Center, brings this habeas corpus action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. This case is now before the Court for a preliminary review of the petition pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in United States District Courts. Rule 4 provides that upon preliminary consideration by the district court judge, “[i]f it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition and direct the clerk to notify the petitioner.” After carefully reviewing the petition in the present case, the Court concludes that Petitioner is not entitled to relief, and the petition must be dismissed.

In this case, Petitioner challenges his 2003 convictions in Williamson County, Illinois, for aggravated driving while license revoked and driving under the influence of alcohol; he was sentenced to an aggregate sentence of 30 months imprisonment. *People v. Brown*, Case No. 01-CF-495 (1st Jud. Cir., Williamson County, filed Nov. 8, 2001) (see Doc. 1, pp. 7-10). According to I.D.O.C. records, that sentence has been fully discharged.¹ Petitioner's current incarceration is the

¹ See I.D.O.C. website, <http://www.idoc.state.il.us/subsections/search/inms.asp>, accessed December 20, 2007.

result of his conviction, entered on March 14, 2006 in the Circuit Court of Woodford County, Illinois, of one count of aggravated driving under the influence and one count of aggravated driving while license revoked, for which he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment and three years' imprisonment, respectively. *See Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, Brown v. Flagg*, No. 06-1209 (C.D. Ill. May 31, 2006).

It appears, however, that Petitioner's 2003 Williamson County convictions were used to enhance his 2006 Woodford County sentences. Because the 2003 convictions had the effect of enhancing his 2006 sentences, Petitioner argues that he is still "in custody" pursuant to the 2003 convictions and, therefore, he may collaterally attack them.

Petitioner's argument is without merit. While Petitioner may collaterally attack his 2006 Woodford County convictions and sentences (which Petitioner is apparently doing in the Central District of Illinois),² he may *not* now collaterally attack his 2003 convictions. "To petition a federal court for habeas relief from a state-court conviction, the applicant must be 'in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.'" *Garlotte v. Fordice*, 515 U.S. 39, 40 (1995) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a)); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). The Supreme Court has construed the "in custody" requirement to preclude a federal court from entertaining a habeas petition unless the "petitioner is 'in custody' under the conviction or sentence under attack at the time his petition is filed." *Maleng v. Cook*, 490 U.S. 488, 490-91 (1989) (per curiam) (citing *Carafas v. LaVallee*, 391 U.S. 234, 238 (1968)).

Because Petitioner has served the full sentence imposed on his 2003 Williamson County convictions, Petitioner is not "in custody" under that state court judgment - even though these convictions were used to enhance his 2006 Woodford County sentences. *See Maleng v. Cook*, 490

²This Court transferred a habeas corpus petition filed in this Court challenging the 2006 conviction to the Central District of Illinois. *See, Brown v. Merchant*, No. 06-433 (S.D. Ill.).

U.S. at 492-93. Therefore, this habeas action does not survive review under Rule 4. Accordingly, this action is **DISMISSED** with prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: August 26, 2008.

/s/ DavidRHerndon
DISTRICT JUDGE